



15 DECEMBER 2024



spiritans

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDÉTE SUNDAY) - C

401-403 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DG, Tel: 020 8399 9550,

E-mail: tolworth@rcaos.org.uk □ www.olionline.co.uk □ **PARISH OFFICE:** Mon-Fri from 10am to 2pm

□ **PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Michael Ezenwamadu, CSSp, michaelezenwamandu@rcaos.org.uk

□ **CURATE:** Fr Bonaventure Ssebyanzi CSSp

□ **SECRETARY:** Mrs Denise Kidd

□ **SCHOOL:** Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School □ **HEADTEACHER:** Mr Ben Martin

My Christmas Clothes of Many Colours

I love Christmas. my childhood memories of Christmas are of exciting and magical occasions, with shining bright Christmas lights appearing everywhere, along with beautiful Christmas trees, tinsel, baubles and garlands. I remember the beautiful clothes that my Mum gave the local tailor to sew for us. The colours were quite vivid and bright. At one time I had a Christmas suit in yellow and at another time I had a suit in a bright red. Of course, the shoes had to match the colour or it had to be white; producing light and sound effects as we marched to Church. We also had our fake Rolex plastic watches and designer glasses all in matching bright colours. Christmas is always about the light. Jesus Christ represents the light that illuminates all things and makes them beautiful. Light is the source of life and goodness. Without light, there can be no life. In the physical world, without light, the food chain would collapse, plants need light for photosynthesis which is the key process that keeps them alive. In this way, light gives life and nourishes all forms of life on our planet. Nothing would be here without God, and no life, no consciousness would be possible. Light guides us to see, and avoids us taking the wrong path in life. Light also reveals what is hidden. It can unearth the beauty in us, and make it shine greater, and it can reveal the hideous around us and make us look for safe spaces. Light is the symbol of hope and positivity. John the Baptist was a witness to the Light. We are also called to be witnesses of light by living as children of light. To be a witness to the light is to be aware and alert to the light of God in you and also to the light of God in others. To be witnesses to the light is to be kind, respectful and caring to all we meet. In a world of hostile darkness, God wants us to light a candle of love wherever we are and whenever it is needed. Although this Light may not be favourably received, such acts of love do yield results beyond our grandest dreams.

Fr. Michael

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: 15 DECEMBER 2024 — 22 DECEMBER 2024

Sat 14	18.30: Clement & Karyina Joseph - RIP (<i>S Joseph</i>)	
Sun 15	09.00: Ottavio D'Agostino (<i>F D'Agostino</i>) & Renato Austria - RIP 40th day Ann	
	11.00: Maria La Paz Cabarrbias - RIP (<i>Jose</i>)	18.00: People of the Parish
Mon 16	09.30: Mary-Ann Deegan - RIP (<i>F Deegan</i>)	
Tues 17	09.30: John Flanagan - RIP (<i>M-J Gray</i>)	19.00: Fr Emmanuel (<i>M Cook</i>)
Wed 18	09.30: Barry Linfield - RIP (<i>F Deegan</i>)	19.00: Thanksgiving (<i>J Fernandes</i>)
Thurs 19	07.00: Thanksgiving (<i>L Confait</i>)	09.30: Colm Moloney - RIP (<i>F Deegan</i>)
	11.00: FUNERAL - Angela Rosemary Bailey - RIP	
Fri 20	07.00: Eamon Barry - WB (<i>C Stevens</i>)	09.30: WB of Anne Martin & Will Martin - RIP
Sat 21	09.00: Dec'd Mems of De Souza, Tremenheere & Middleton Families (<i>S Tremenheere</i>)	
Sat 21	18.30: Nancy & Noel Ryan - RIP (<i>M Tett</i>)	
Sun 22	09.00: Ray Lewry - RIP (<i>K Fox</i>)	
	11.00: Kathy Cook - WB (<i>E & L McName</i>)	18.00: Stella Tremenheere - Ints

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:	MONDAY – FRIDAY: 8AM
MORNING PRAYER (LAUDS):	MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9AM
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:	SATURDAY: - 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.00pm
YOUTH MASS:	LAST SUNDAY: - 6pm Mass
ST ANTHONY OF PADUA NOVENA:	TUESDAY: - After morning and evening Masses
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA:	WEDNESDAY: - After morning and evening Masses
OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION:	FIRST SATURDAY - of the month, after morning Mass
SYRO-MALABAR VIGIL	FIRST FRIDAY - of the month

REMEMBRANCE: Please remember in your prayers all who have recently died especially Angela Bailey and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their souls rest in peace. Amen

THE SICK: Vanessa Andrew, Martin Dray, Pauline Ferrara, Thomas Haley, George Trutwein, Frances Cox, Mary Ryan, Rita Reginald, Thomas O'Connor, Jimmy Simon, Sarah Mills, Samar Staussi, Annita Smith, Shirlene A., Kathleen McGuinness, Kathleen O'Connell, Claire Pender, Hazel D'Aguiar, Elizabeth Jones, Wendy Cook, Tony Cook, Nivetheni Robert, Baby Freddie Page, Clare & Baby Polly, Gerry Hague, Maureen Stephens, Maureen Sellwood, Mavis Fisher, Andy Moolman, Ian Beard, Qiaochen Shi, Ida Rebello, Ravenna Ahmed, Jesse Osborne, Vinitha Sherin, Jisha Nelson, Ralph Smallwood, Adam Martin, Mark Draper, Tim & Janice Ryan, Lionel Holland, Nan Healy, Allan Cook, Colin Stevens and Joan Frost.

Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Tolworth

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Penitential Act: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (*And, striking their breast, they say:*) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm:

Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R3

Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD is my strength and my praise,
and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation. **R**

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted. **R**

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

Second reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorised to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. (*At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow*) For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in

the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Prayer over the Offerings:

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME FR BONAVENTURE SSEBYANZI CSSP

As our new assistant parish priest. Fr. Bonaventure arrived from Uganda this week and we wish him a very blessed and fruitful ministry in our parish.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND - FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS There will be a second collection this weekend for flowers for the decoration of our Church at Christmas.

THANKS SO MUCH TO HELEN EMMETT, THE WEDNESDAY WARM WELCOMERS & VOLUNTEERS that helped us to organise our annual Christmas Tea Party. It was a huge success. May God bless them abundantly.

THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE GREAT WORK THAT YOU DO And all those that have helped us in planning all our Christmas activities. May God bless you all abundantly.

THE COLLECTION TAKEN AT ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES IS YOUR GIFT TO YOUR PRIESTS AND THE SPIRITANS. It will be used for the mission. As usual, envelopes are available in the Narthex. If you are a member of the parish Gift Aid scheme, please enter your gift aid number on the envelope to enable tax to be reclaimed for the benefit of the parish. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

ALTAR SERVERS AT CHRISTMAS Altar servers are needed for the Christmas Masses as follows: Christmas Eve 5.00pm, 7.00pm and 10.00pm (please note this starts with carols at 9.30 so you need to be there for 8.45pm) and on Christmas Day at 8.00am, 9.15am and 11.00am. There are sign-up sheets in the RDJ room. Thank you!

FR. MICHAEL WILL MEET WITH THE NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ON FRIDAY, 20TH OF DECEMBER, OLD CHAPEL - for a brief meeting and introduction.

LIZ LEWRY AND HER FAMILY would like to thank the parishioners at Our Lady Immaculate for all the kind messages of condolence, prayers and cards received following her husband Ray Lewry's passing on 28th October 2024.

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

EVERGREEN FOLIAGE FOR CHRISTMAS - If you have evergreen shrubs or bushes in your garden and can spare a few branches? Please bring to the RDJ room this weekend (14th & 15th December). Our lovely flower arrangers are collecting green foliage for the Christmas displays. Thank you.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

1. MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

9am, Monday-Friday. Please join us to pray the Psalms & Intercessions daily.

2. PARISH SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS: The Parish Service of Lessons and Carols is on Sunday, **15th December at 3pm.** Please do come along to this. We have put together a special enlarged choir for this traditional service, which consists of readings from Sacred Scripture and lots of traditional Christmas music. There will be mulled wine and mince pie in the Parish hall afterwards.

3. RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

Monday, 16th December at 7pm. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the important spiritual preparations that we can and should make during Advent. Visiting priests will be available to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation

4. OLI CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:

Wednesday, 18th December at 5pm in the Church. This Service is a special Church Service that is held for children during Advent and celebrates Christ, who is the Light of the World. Children (and adults) are invited to bring a Christingle to the Service. Instructions on how to make a Christingle can be found on the Parish website <http://www.olionline.co.uk>. A candle will be provided when you arrive at the Service

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

1. CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH DECEMBER:

5pm - Vigil Mass 1.

7pm - Vigil Mass 2.

10pm - Mass in the Night (*Carol singing - 9.30pm*)

2. CHRISTMAS DAY, 25TH DECEMBER:

8am - Mass at Dawn

9.15am - Mass During the Day 1

11am - Mass During the Day 2

3. NEW YEAR'S EVE 31ST DECEMBER:

10pm - Eucharistic Exposition with Benediction

11.15pm - Holy Mass to welcome the New Year.

4. NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1ST JANUARY, 2025:

9.30am - Morning Mass

INFORMATION & REMINDERS

FR. MICHAEL WILL BE AWAY THROUGH OUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY FOR HIS MISSION LEAVE - if you have anything that you will like to discuss with him, please, do it as soon as possible in the month of December.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS - From Friday 21st December until Monday 6th January 2025.

THE USE OF THE NEW LECTIONARY IN OUR MASSES Started last weekend. There are copies of the Mass book for those that prefer it, thanks so much for all those that gifted the new lectionary to the Church.

CHRISTMAS PRISONER'S GIFT BAGS IS STILL ON - We are collecting gift bags to be distributed on Christmas eve to the prisoners in Wandsworth Prison. If you wish to donate a gift bag or money for a gift bag please speak with Fr. Michael & Denise for specifications and give to the Parish Office by 20th December. Thanks for your generosity.

FR. MICHAEL WILL LIKE TO INVITE PARISHIONERS Who may want to do a reflection on a particular Sunday reading or a very relevant issue that can be published in our Sunday newsletter to do so. The reflection can be sent to Fr. Michael or the Parish office before Wednesday of the week. It is part of the tradition of studying the word of God.

No Flowers In Advent: The season of Advent began on Sunday 1 December. Please **NO** flowers to be brought to the Lady Chapel or anywhere throughout the Church until Christmas Eve due to the quasi-penitential / somber nature of Advent and then the Crib being erected.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKEND

Gift-aid: £301.06

Non-Gift-aid: £843.19

Total: £1,144.25

2nd Collection: £367.38

TOTAL COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Cash / cheques – £4,469.28

1. Gift-Aided – £1,283.07

2. Non-G/A – £3,186.21

B. Standing Orders / Bank Transfers – £2,345.00

1. Gift-Aided – £2,145.00

2. Non-G/A – £200.00

C. Contactless Machine – £1,652.81

Total = £8,467.09 (Last month: £8,384.18)

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

Please make **cheques** payable to: **RCAS Tolworth**

Kindly consider making your regular contribution to the Church via standing order (form available at olionline.co.uk), or by online banking:

RCAS Our Lady Immaculate Church, Account Number: 06467032; Sort Code: 60-21-05.

OBITUARIES:

ANGELA BAILEY: Kindly pray for Angela Bailey who passed away on 20th November.

Funeral: OLI, Thursday 19th December, 11.00am

The Priest asked the children in class: “What is your favourite bible story?” Little Johnny put up his hand and said, “When Jesus changed the water into wine.” “Yes, that was a miracle, wasn’t it?”, said the Priest. “Yes”, said little Johnny. “Now what does the story about Jesus changing the water into wine teach us?” Little Johnny said, “When you run out of wine, get down on your knees and pray.”

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COLLECTORS

BAPTISM

EXACT

SOLDIERS

EXTORTION

CONTENT

WATER

STRAP

SANDALS

FIRE

WHEAT

CHAFF

